SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR CREATING CUSTOM WALLPAPER

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates in general to custom wallpaper to be applied to walls. More particularly, the present invention relates to a computerized system and method for creating and delivering custom wallpaper.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Traditionally, wallpaper is an "off-the-shelf" product that is limited to colors, designs, and patterns of a manufacturer's choice. A consumer desiring a particular color, design, or pattern typically did not have the option of creating custom wallpaper. Most people do not have the creative ability , resources, or access to the expensive design and printing equipment needed to design and create custom wallpaper. For example, if a consumer wants a specific design of wallpaper that cannot be obtained from "off-the-shelf" sources, the consumer must deal directly with a specialty designer and manufacturer to design, create, and obtain the specific wallpaper design. The wallpaper manufacturer must then take the time to create a design template which can include particular colors, designs, or patterns in

accordance with the consumer's desired preferences. A specialized wallpaper design created by the wallpaper manufacturer is only used for the consumer's specific order and results in waste if the design is never used again. The effort and time that both the consumer and the wallpaper manufacturer expend in creating a specialized template for a single order of wallpaper creates wasted resources for both the consumer and the wallpaper designer and manufacturer, making custom wallpaper virtually unaffordable for the mainstream consumer. Creating and delivering custom wallpaper can be a complicated, time consuming, and expensive task. Thus, there is a need for a system and method for creating custom wallpaper.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is a system and method for creating custom wallpaper. The present invention can include one or more custom wallpaper creation program modules operating on the server and/or remote devices. Generally, the present invention operates in a distributed computer network environment including a server and one or more remote devices. A user may interact with the present invention through a remote device in communication with the network, or otherwise through an input device in communication with the network. Previously existing wallpaper design parameters can be stored in a database that is accessible by one or more custom wallpaper creation program modules. Each custom wallpaper creation program module can be operable for displaying a selection of design parameters on a website via a remote device and/or display device. The user can interact through a graphical user interface such as an Internet website to select wallpaper design parameters presented to the user on the remote device and/or display device.

The present invention can also include a printing module associated with a printing service provider. The printing module can be stored on the server and/or one or more remote devices. In either case, the printing module can communicate with the network. The printing module is operable for receiving selected wallpaper design parameters from a custom wallpaper creation program module, operable for formatting the wallpaper design parameters for printing a corresponding design characteristic on a medium such as wallpaper, and further operable for printing the corresponding design characteristic on a medium such as a sheet of wallpaper.

Furthermore, the present invention can include a database that can be stored on the server and/or remote devices. The database can be in communication with the network. The database is operable for storing previously defined wallpaper design parameters for selection by a user, operable for storing user-selected wallpaper design parameters, and further operable for transmitting user-selected design parameters to the printing module.

In another embodiment, the present invention can operate in a remote device such as a personal computer installed in a kiosk. A user may interact with the present invention through the remote device, or otherwise through an input device associated with a remote device. One or more custom wallpaper creation program modules can then display a selection of design parameters on the remote device and/or display device. The user can interact through a graphical user interface on the remote device or display device to select wallpaper design parameters. The custom wallpaper creation program modules can then store user-selected wallpaper design parameters for later retrieval or printing by a printing module.

When a user operates the present invention, the custom wallpaper creation program module displays a selection of previously stored wallpaper design parameters

via a remote device and/or display device. When the user makes a selection of a particular wallpaper design parameter using an input device or remote device, the custom wallpaper creation program module receives the user selection of at least one wallpaper design parameter. The custom wallpaper creation program module then permits the user to view the selected wallpaper design parameter on the remote device and/or display device. When the user is satisfied with a particular selection, or is otherwise finished selecting a wallpaper design parameter, the custom wallpaper creation program module transmits the selected wallpaper design parameter to the printing module where the wallpaper design parameter is formatted for printing a corresponding design characteristic on a sheet of wallpaper.

Wallpaper design parameters can include, but are not limited to, graphic objects, designs, patterns and repeat patterns, border trim, backgrounds including background color and textures, photographic images, illustrations, clip art, fonts, text, typeface, colors, etc.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a functional block diagram illustrating an exemplary embodiment of the present invention that is configured for facilitating the creation and delivery of custom wallpaper in a networked computer environment.

FIG. 2 is an exemplary method of an embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 3 is an exemplary subroutine of another embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 4 is a screen shot of an introductory webpage or homepage of a website that operates in conjunction with an exemplary embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 5 is a screen shot of a creation webpage of a website that operates in conjunction with an exemplary embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 6 is a screen shot of another creation webpage of a website that operates in conjunction with an exemplary embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 7 is a screen shot of another creation webpage of a website that operates in conjunction with an exemplary embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 8 is a screen shot of another creation webpage of a website that operates in conjunction with an exemplary embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 9 is a screen shot of a another creation webpage of a website that operates in conjunction with an exemplary embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 10 is an illustration of a wallpaper design sample created by an exemplary embodiment of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION

Particular embodiments of the present invention will now be described in greater detail with reference to the drawings. FIG. 1 shows a functional block diagram illustrating an exemplary embodiment of the present invention that is configured for facilitating the creation and delivery of custom wallpaper in a networked computer environment **100**. As shown, the present invention includes one or more of the exemplary custom wallpaper creation program modules **102** for facilitating the creation and delivery of custom wallpaper. Each custom wallpaper creation program module **102** can comprise one or more sub-modules **102a-b** operable for methods or subroutines for facilitating the creation and delivery of custom wallpaper. The custom wallpaper creation program modules **102** and respective sub-modules **102a-b** may be configured for execution by a central server

104 that is accessible by a remote device **106a-c** via a distributed computer network **108**, such as the Internet. Moreover, a custom wallpaper creation program module **102** can comprise a website **109** for interacting with a user via a network such as the Internet.

Typically, a custom wallpaper creation program module **102** comprises computer-executable instructions for facilitating the process of creating custom wallpaper. The custom wallpaper creation program module **102** may comprise a designer wizard sub-module **102a** that is operable to access and to display an electronic database or catalog of customizable template designs and an assortment of sample rooms. The designer wizard sub-module **102a** may be further operable to permit user selection of previously stored or newly created wallpaper design parameters, such as those stored in a database or downloaded from a remote location. Furthermore, the designer wizard sub-module **102a** may be operable to display selected wallpaper design parameters for the user to view a sample design of custom wallpaper. Moreover, the designer wizard sub-module **102a** may be operable to permit creation of specific wallpaper design elements for use as wallpaper design parameters.

A custom wallpaper creation program module **102** may also comprise a shopping cart sub-module **102b** that prompts and assists the user in calculating wall dimensions and a quantity of wallpaper needed or desired. Each of the custom wallpaper creation program modules **102**, and associated sub-modules **102a-b** may be accessible to a user via the Internet through a website **109**.

A remote device **106a-c** may comprise a desktop computer, a laptop computer, a hand-held device, a personal digital assistant, a kiosk, or the like. A remote device **106a-c** may be configured for execution of a browser program **110** in order to view

the website **109** and interact with the custom wallpaper creation program modules **102** at the central server **104**. The remote device **106a-c** may communicate with the server **104** via any well-known communications link, such as a local area network, a wide area network, the Internet, etc. For example, the communications link **112**, or at least a portion thereof, may be a wireless network.

In some cases, the remote device **106a-c** may be configured for executing one or more custom wallpaper creation program modules **102**. Alternatively, the remote device **106a-c** can communicate with a server **104** or server computer, which executes the one or more custom wallpaper creation program modules **102**. In other cases, both the remote device **106a-c** and the server **104** may execute one or more custom wallpaper creation program modules **102**.

In general, a remote device **106b** may comprise a memory for storing such things as an operating system **114**, a browser program **110** or other program modules or data files, and a processing unit **116** for executing application programs, such as the browser program **110**. The remote device **106b** may also comprise a serial port **118** for communication with one or more input devices **120** such as a keyboard and a mouse, a video adapter **122** for communication with a display device **124**, and a network interface **126** for communication with the distributed computer network **108** or a dedicated communications link **112**. The input device may be connected to the remote device **106a-c** or may be connected to the network **108**. As will be apparent to those of skill in the art, a remote device **106b** may comprise additional features and components.

The central server **104** may also comprise a conventional computer system configured to function as a network server. For example, the central server **104** may comprise a memory **128** for storing an operating system **130**, one or more custom

wallpaper creation program modules **102**, a database management system (DBMS) **132**, as well as other program modules and data files. The central server **104** may further comprise a processing unit **134** and a network interface **136**. The central server **104** may also comprise or be in communication with a database **138** for storing data relating to the creation of custom wallpaper.

The database **138** may comprise a customer database **140**, a template database **142**, a graphics database **144**, and a custom wallpaper database **146**. The customer database **140** is operable for storing customer-specific data, e.g., demographic, financial, and purchase history data. Demographic data can include, but is not limited to, customer address information, customer or user preferences, and a profile of customer interests. Financial data can include, but is not limited to, credit card information, account information, and financial institution information. Purchase history data can include, but is not limited to, the number of previous purchases, the dates and times of previous purchases, and the cost or prices paid for previous purchases.

The template database **142** is operable for storing a plurality of custom wallpaper templates with wallpaper design parameters. Custom wallpaper templates can include, but are not limited to, those previously made by the user, templates designed by a third-party, or those designed by a commercial wallpaper designer and manufacturer.

The graphics database **144** is operable for storing data files relating to other wallpaper design parameters. Data files relating to other wallpaper design parameters can include, but are not limited to, files for graphic objects, designs, patterns and repeat patterns, border trim, backgrounds including background color and textures, photographic images, illustrations, clip art, fonts, text, typeface, and colors.

The custom wallpaper database **146** is operable for storing finalized custom wallpaper designs. Finalized custom wallpaper designs can include, but are not limited to, designs created by a user, designs previously created by a third-party, or designs created by a commercial wallpaper designer and manufacturer.

Each of the databases **140-146** can be linked together so that information can be shared between each of the databases, or otherwise accessed collectively when needed. For example, information about a particular customer may be stored in the customer database **140**, and wallpaper images or templates created by the customer may be stored in a custom wallpaper database **146**. If a user desires to store custom wallpaper images or templates for later retrieval from the system **100**, then the user can locate the particular custom wallpaper images or templates at a later time.

Generally, the custom wallpaper creation program modules **102** at the central server **104** may be accessed from a remote device **106a-c** via the distributed computer network **108**, by way of a website **109**. The website **109** may display to a user a series of forms or webpages designed to facilitate the entry of input data for the creation of custom wallpaper. A set of sample forms or webpages will be described in greater detail in conjunction with FIGs. 4-9.

A user may interact with one or more sub-modules **102a-c** of the custom wallpaper creation program modules **102** in order to design and purchase custom wallpaper. For example, a designer wizard sub-module **102a** can present a list of available wallpaper templates and associated wallpaper design parameters to the user. The designer wizard sub-module **102a** can present one or more webpages that prompt and assist the user to select wallpaper design parameters to create a sample design of custom wallpaper. The user can control selections by way of the input device **120** such as selecting a wallpaper template and various wallpaper design parameters. The

user can also use the input device **120** to place wallpaper design parameters or elements, select colors from a color palette, select fonts, backgrounds and other wallpaper design parameters or elements to personalize or customize a wallpaper template to match their desired décor. To facilitate a wallpaper custom design, the user may also download previously stored, newly created, or new digital images to the central server **104**. Selected input data and images transferred by the user to the central server **104** may be also imported into a wallpaper template for further creation and design of custom wallpaper. Those skilled in the art should appreciate that input data and images may be downloaded to the central server **104** from the remote device **106a-c** in a batch mode, or in an interactive mode. Custom wallpaper creation program modules **102** may also allow the user to create a custom design for wallpaper without the use of any pre-prepared templates, instead, creating all original materials.

When a user makes a selection of data or of wallpaper design parameters, the custom wallpaper creation program modules **102** or designer wizard sub-module **102a** can display the input data or selections by way of the display device **124** so that the user can create, manipulate, and view a sample design of custom wallpaper. The sample design of custom wallpaper can be further modified by the user to suit the user's desired décor.

After a user selects input data or wallpaper design parameters, the selected input data or wallpaper design parameters can be stored in the database **138** for later retrieval. These selected data and parameters can be also be accessed by the central server **104** or by one or more other databases **140-146** when needed.

The custom wallpaper creation program modules **102** may provide the user with the option to view a sample of the custom wallpaper. For example, as the user selects a desired wallpaper design parameter, the custom wallpaper creation program

module **102** can create a sample design of all selected wallpaper design parameters for viewing by the user on a display device.

When the design of the custom wallpaper has been completed, the sample design may be saved to a data file in an electronic format. For example, a finalized custom wallpaper design may be stored in a data file in the custom wallpaper database **146**. Conventional methods and techniques for storing data in an electronic format can be utilized for a data file containing a sample design of custom wallpaper.

During the design process, the user may be provided with the ability to communicate, for example via electronic mail, with a design consultant. A data file containing the user's sample design of custom wallpaper can also be shared with a design consultant via electronic mail should the user seek additional design guidance.

The design sample may be printed to any printer that is in communication with the remote device **106a-c** (e.g., a printer coupled to a kiosk) or the server. Typically, the custom wallpaper creation program modules **102** translate any user selections, such as input data or user-selected wallpaper design parameters, into an appropriate language, such as postscript, that can be stored in electronic format and is readable by a digital printing press. The digital printing press may comprise a digital ink-jet or laser printer. The digital printing press may be configured to print the custom wallpaper onto a medium. A suitable medium can be a laminated sheet of paper stock with adhesive backing. However, the medium such as paper stock may or may not be laminated, and furthermore may or may not have an adhesive backing. Alternately, the custom wallpaper design may be printed onto other substrates, such as fabrics, plastics, composites, ceramics, etc.

The central server **104** may comprise hardware and software components, such as a printing module **148** for printing professional versions of custom wallpaper

using user-selected wallpaper design parameters. Alternatively, the central server **104** may communicate with a printing service provider **150** comprising an associated printing module **152**, in which the associated printing module **152** can communicate with the server **104** via the distributed network **108** or a private communications link **154**. The printing service provider **150** may thus be maintained or controlled by the same entity that maintains or controls the central server **104**, or the printing service provider **150** may be an independent entity. The printing service provider **150** connects to the distributed computer network **108**, and is in communication with the custom wallpaper creation program module **102** and the database **138**. The printing service provider **150** can comprise a printing module **148** which can access a digital printing press, digital ink-jet, laser printer, or similar type of printing equipment. The printing module **148** can receive information from the custom wallpaper creation program module **102** and the database **138** such as data files containing finalized custom wallpaper designs. After the custom wallpaper is printed, it may be shipped directly to the user, to a retail location, or to a professional installer.

Furthermore, the central server **102** may accept payment for the custom wallpaper from the user by way of any well-known electronic funds transfer mechanism. When a wallpaper design has been completed and approved by a user, the user can make a wallpaper purchase through the custom wallpaper creation program modules **102** or electronic shopping cart sub-module **102b** via an electronic funds transfer. A typical electronic funds transfer involves transmittal of a financial account number (e.g., a credit card or debit card account number) via a secured web-site. The central server and the printing service provider **175** may also perform settlement via electronic funds transfer, if appropriate. For example, the central server **104** may communicate with a financial institution **156** or a point-of-sale device

via the distributed network **106** or a dedicated communications link **158**. A remote device **106a-c** may provide the user with the ability to input financial account information (e.g., credit card information, debit card information, etc.) in order to make an electronic purchase. The financial account information may be transmitted to the server **104**, which may communicate with a financial institution **156**. The server **104**, or the operator thereof, may thus use the financial information received from the user to complete a transaction. In some instances, feedback or user-specific information can be received by the server from the financial institution **156**. The custom wallpaper creation program modules **102** or electronic shopping cart sub-modules **102b** can then utilize the feedback or user-specific information and user's financial information to facilitate, to evaluate, or to complete an order or other type of transaction with a user.

FIG. 2 is an exemplary method of an embodiment of the present invention for creating custom wallpaper via a distributed computer network environment. The method **200** starts at step **202**.

Step **202** is followed by step **204**, in which a selection of wallpaper design parameters is stored. A selection of wallpaper design parameters can be stored by one or more custom wallpaper creation program modules **102**. Typically, a selection of wallpaper design parameters can be stored in a database or in a similar type of memory-based device, and can be accessed by the custom wallpaper creation program modules **102**. Wallpaper design parameters can include, but are not limited to, wallpaper elements, wallpaper colors from a color palette, typographical fonts, backgrounds and other elements to personalize or customize wallpaper templates. Generally, a wallpaper design parameter is associated with a particular wallpaper design characteristic.

Step **204** is followed by subroutine **206**, in which a custom wallpaper design is created with user input. For example, a designer wizard sub-module **102a** can execute the steps of subroutine **206**. Subroutine **206** is further described with reference to the flowchart depicted in FIG. 3. Typically, a user can interact with one or more custom wallpaper creation program modules **102** through a website **109** via a remote device **106a-c** or an input device **120**. The user can select one or more wallpaper design parameters to create a custom order of wallpaper. Furthermore, the user can create a custom order of wallpaper utilizing new wallpaper design parameters or previously existing or stored wallpaper design parameters. The custom wallpaper creation program modules **102** can then compile the user-selected wallpaper design parameters into a sample custom wallpaper design.

Subroutine **206** is followed by decision block **208**, in which a determination is made whether payment is authorized. That is, after a sample custom wallpaper design is complete or approved by a user, the custom wallpaper creation program modules **102** can determine whether the user is authorized to ultimately purchase the sample custom wallpaper design.

If the custom wallpaper creation program modules **102** determine that the user not authorized, then the "NO" branch is followed to step **210**. In step **210**, one or more of the custom wallpaper creation program modules **102** receives financial information about the user. This financial information can be input by a user through a series of formatted webpages on the website **109**, or can be otherwise previously stored information in an associated database **138** accessible by one or more of the custom wallpaper creation program modules **102**.

Step **210** is followed by step **212**, in which one or more custom wallpaper creation program modules **102** transmits a user's financial information to a financial institution **156**.

Step **212** is followed by step **214**, in which one or more custom wallpaper creation program modules **102** receive feedback from the financial institution **156**. Typically, feedback from the financial institution **156** can include an authorization to permit the user to purchase the sample custom wallpaper design, settlement of a purchase transaction, transfer of electronic funds to an account, or the establishment of a line of electronic credit. In some cases, a user will be given negative feedback, and a decision can be made to end the user's attempted purchase or transaction.

After step **214**, the method **200** returns to decision block **208**.

If the custom wallpaper creation program modules **102** determine that the user is authorized, then the "YES" branch is followed to step **216**. Based upon feedback from the financial institution, one or more custom wallpaper creation program modules **102** can authorize the user to complete the transaction and the method **200** continues.

In step **216**, one or more custom wallpaper creation program modules **102** transmit user-selected wallpaper design parameters to a printing module **148**. The printing module can be associated with the custom wallpaper creation program modules **102** or can be associated with an independent printing service provider **150**. The custom wallpaper creation program modules **102** can retrieve previously stored user-selected wallpaper design parameters from an associated database **138** and transmit these parameters to a printing module **148**. Typically, the wallpaper design parameters have been saved in an electronic format that can be utilized by a digital printer, or similar type of printing device.

Step **216** is followed by step **218**, in which a corresponding custom wallpaper design is printed onto a medium. A suitable medium can be a laminated sheet with adhesive backing. Typically, the printing module receives the user-selected wallpaper design parameters and the parameters are sent to a digital printer or similar type of printing device. The digital printer or other type of printing device formats the user-selected wallpaper design parameters, and then corresponding custom wallpaper design can be printed. Generally, the corresponding custom wallpaper design is characterized by the user-selected wallpaper design parameters.

FIG. 3 illustrates an exemplary subroutine of an embodiment of the present invention for creating custom wallpaper via a distributed computer network environment. For example, a designer wizard sub-module **102a** can execute the steps of subroutine **206**. The subroutine **206** starts at step **302**.

Step **302** is followed by step **304**, in which a selection of wallpaper design parameters is displayed. A selection of wallpaper design parameters can be displayed by one or more custom wallpaper creation program modules **102** via a remote device **106a-c** or on an associated display device **124** connected to a remote device **106a-c**. The selection of wallpaper design parameters can be previously stored in a database **138** or in a similar type of memory-based device, and can be further accessed by the custom wallpaper creation program modules **102**. As discussed previously, wallpaper design parameters can include, but are not limited to, wallpaper elements, wallpaper colors from a color palette, typographical fonts, backgrounds and other elements to personalize or customize wallpaper templates. Generally, a wallpaper design parameter is associated with a particular wallpaper design characteristic.

Step **304** is followed by step **306**, in which at least one design parameter is received from a user. Typically, a user can interact with the custom wallpaper

creation program modules **102** via a website **109** or through a remote device **106a-c** to select one or more wallpaper design parameters in order to create or to customize wallpaper. Sometimes, a remote device **106a-c** will provide the user with an input device **120** to interact with the wallpaper creation program modules **102** in order to select one or more wallpaper design parameters in order to create or to customize wallpaper.

Step **306** is followed by step **308**, in which the user-selected wallpaper design parameters are displayed. After a user selects a particular design parameter, the custom wallpaper creation program modules **102** can display the user's selection on a remote device **106a-c** or associated display device **124**. The custom wallpaper creation program modules **102** can retrieve previously stored user-selected wallpaper design parameters from a database or other memory or storage-type device, and process these parameters for visual display of a sample design of wallpaper in accordance with design characteristics corresponding to the user-selected design parameters.

Step **308** is followed by step **310**, in which the user-selected wallpaper design parameters are stored for later retrieval. In general, all of the user-selected design parameters for use in a final sample design of custom wallpaper are translated into an electronic format that can be used by a printing module **148**. The user-selected wallpaper design parameters are then stored in a database **138** for later retrieval by one or more of the custom wallpaper creation program modules **102** or by the printing module **148**.

Alternatively, all of the user-selected wallpaper design parameters stored for later retrieval do not have to be selected in a single user design session. A user may create a particular wallpaper design today, create dimensions for the wallpaper design

on another day, and then purchase the wallpaper design next week. The storage of user-selected parameters in the database **138** permits the user to revisit the website when needed to complete a custom wallpaper design and subsequent purchase when desired.

After step **310**, the subroutine **206** returns to decision block **208** in FIG. 2.

FIGs. 4-9 illustrate exemplary forms and webpage screen shots of a website **109** that operates in conjunction with an exemplary embodiment of the present invention. FIG. 4 is a screen shot of an introductory webpage or homepage **400** of a website that operates in conjunction with an exemplary embodiment of the present invention. One or more of the exemplary custom wallpaper creation program modules **102** can present a homepage **400** on a website for facilitating the creation and delivery of custom wallpaper. The homepage **400** can present one or more user options **402-412** or other wallpaper design parameters to a user for facilitating the creation and delivery of custom wallpaper. User options can include, but are not limited to, "About My Walls", "Create Now", "Measuring", "Installation", "For Your Business", and "For Kids Only". Typically, user options or other wallpaper design parameters provide a set of tools or parameters to a user for facilitating the creation and delivery of custom wallpaper. Other user options can provide administrative tools for a user to access a user account. A user can utilize a remote device and/or an associated input device to interact with the webpage in order to select a desired user option. For example, a user can utilize a touch screen at a kiosk to interact with a webpage of an Internet website. Each of the user interactions with the webpage can then be transmitted to one or more custom wallpaper creation program modules **102** for facilitating the creation and delivery of custom wallpaper.

Another example of a user option on the homepage **400** of an exemplary website for facilitating the creation and delivery of custom wallpaper can be a sign-in feature that requires a user to enter a user name and a password. If the user is a new user, then the sign-in feature permits the new user to create a new user name and password. If the user is a returning user, then the user may prompted to whether he or she wants to change or order previously stored wallpaper design samples.

FIG. 5 is a screen shot of a creation webpage **500** of a website that operates in conjunction with an exemplary embodiment of the present invention. If a user selects the option "Create Now" **404** from a homepage **400** as shown in FIG. 4, then one or more exemplary custom wallpaper creation program modules **102** can display a creation webpage **500** to present a pull-down menu **502** with one or more user options **504-510** related to creating custom wallpaper. User options related to creating custom wallpaper can include, but are not limited to, "By Room", "By Theme", "By Color" and "For Kids". For example, a user can utilize a pull down menu **502** with one or more user options **504-510** or other wallpaper design parameters. By selecting a particular user option such as "By Room" **504**, a user can select further user options related to designing wallpaper for a particular room in a house.

FIG. 6 is a screen shot of another creation webpage of a website that operates in conjunction with an exemplary embodiment of the present invention. If a user selects the user option "By Room" **504** from the webpage **500** as shown in FIG. 5, then one or more exemplary custom wallpaper creation program modules **102** can display another creation webpage **600** to present one or more user options **602-612** or other wallpaper design parameters. User options can include, but are not limited to, "Kitchen", "Bedroom", "Living Room", "Kid's Room", "Dining Room", and "More Rooms". For example, a user can select a particular user option such as "Kid's

Room" **608** to obtain further options related to designing wallpaper for a "Kid's Room" or child's room.

FIG. 7 is a screen shot of another creation webpage of a website that operates in conjunction with an exemplary embodiment of the present invention. If a user selects the user option "Kid's Room" **608** from the webpage **600** as shown in FIG. 6, then one or more exemplary custom wallpaper creation program modules **102** can display another creation webpage **700** to present one or more pull-down menus **702, 704** and additional user options **706-718** for wallpaper design parameters. For example, a pull-down menu **702** for "Select Border Graphics" can provide multiple user options **706-718** for border graphics or other wallpaper design parameters. User options for border graphics can include, but are not limited to, "Animals", "Toys", "Patterns", "Clowns", "Outer Space", and "For Boy's Room", and "For Girl's Room". If a user can selects a particular pull-down menu user option such as "Animals" **706**, then a scrollable list **720** containing a variety of previously stored graphical elements **722-730** or other wallpaper design parameters can be displayed to the user via a display device or remote device. Additional samples for border graphics of previously completed wallpaper designs can be called by the user by selecting the user option "Some Samples" **732**. Furthermore, composite wallpaper graphical elements **734-736** can be also displayed in the scrollable list **720** for selection by the user. Additional composite wallpaper graphical elements or other wallpaper design parameters may be accessible for viewing and selection by the user simply by accessing a carat **738** at the bottom of the scrollable list **720**.

FIG. 8 is a screen shot of another creation webpage of a website that operates in conjunction with an exemplary embodiment of the present invention. Once a user selects wallpaper design parameters from the webpage **700** as shown in FIG. 7, then

one or more exemplary custom wallpaper creation program modules **102** can display another creation webpage **800** to present a wallpaper design sample **802** that incorporates one or more wallpaper design parameters such as previously stored graphical elements **722-730**, **734-736**. For example, a wallpaper design sample **802** of a 4 foot by 9 inch border panel can be graphically displayed with individual graphic elements **804** and/or composite graphic elements **806** or other wallpaper design parameters can be displayed to a user on a display device or remote device. When the user has completed a sample wallpaper design, the user can approve the change simply by clicking on the button **808** labeled "Approve change". Approving a change will store the wallpaper design sample **802** into the database **138** or other memory-type device for later retrieval. The design process described in FIGs. 4-9 can be repeated as necessary until the user is satisfied with or otherwise completed designing one or more custom wallpaper design samples. Therefore, as described in FIGs. 4-9, when a user selects particular wallpaper design parameters for a wallpaper design sample **802**, the user can then store each wallpaper design parameter or set of parameters as needed, and one or more of the custom wallpaper creation program modules **102** can prompt the user at each stage of the design process until a complete wallpaper design sample is created.

FIG. 9 is a screen shot of a creation webpage **900** of a website that operates in conjunction with an exemplary embodiment of the present invention. The custom wallpaper creation program module **102** can also prompt the user to add text **902** to a wallpaper design sample **904**. A selection of fonts **906** can be displayed in a scrollable list **908** for the user's selection of a particular typeface or font. After selecting a particular font and text, the wallpaper design sample **902** is updated by the custom wallpaper creation program module **102** to reflect changes such as font and

text changes made by the user. The user can then store the new wallpaper design sample **902** in the database **138** for later retrieval by selecting the button "Approve change" **910**.

Once a user is satisfied with or otherwise completed designing custom wallpaper design samples as shown in FIGs. 4-9, then the user can proceed to checkout. A custom wallpaper creation program module **102** displays one or more checkout options such as "Put in Shopping Cart" **912** or "Proceed to Checkout" **914**. If a user selects the checkout option "Put in Shopping Cart" **912**, then the custom wallpaper creation program module **102** can prompt the user to create an additional wallpaper design sample, to complete the order and purchase the wallpaper design sample today, or store the wallpaper design sample for future purchase. For example, if the user has already created wallpaper, then the user is prompted to design a matching border. Alternatively, if the user has created a border, then the user is prompted to create matching wallpaper. Other types of wallpaper design elements or wallpaper design parameters can be prompted.

If a user selects the checkout option "Proceed to Checkout" **914** then the custom wallpaper creation program module **102** can prompt the user to complete a one or more webpages or forms querying the user about footage, dimensions, verification of designs and text. Furthermore, the user can be required to complete billing information, shipping information, and certify agreement to production disclaimers. Other types of transaction information can be prompted from the user upon checkout.

FIG. 10 is an illustration of a wallpaper design sample **1000** created by an exemplary embodiment of the present invention. The wallpaper design sample can include wallpaper design parameters such as graphic objects, designs, patterns and

repeat patterns, border trim, backgrounds including background color and textures, photographic images, illustrations, clip art, fonts, text, typeface, colors, etc. For example, this particular wallpaper design sample **1000** includes a graphic object **1002**, text **1004**, a type of font **1006**, color **1008**, and background **1010**. Other combinations of wallpaper design parameters and user-selected options or parameters can be compiled into a wallpaper design sample **1000** for printing by the present invention.

Alternative embodiments will become apparent to those skilled in the art to which the present invention pertains without departing from its spirit and scope. Accordingly, the scope of the present invention is defined by the appended claims rather than the foregoing description.